DROP EVERYTHING! BUY--
mazing man
by ROZAKIS, DESTEFANO, KESEL & HEMBECK
9
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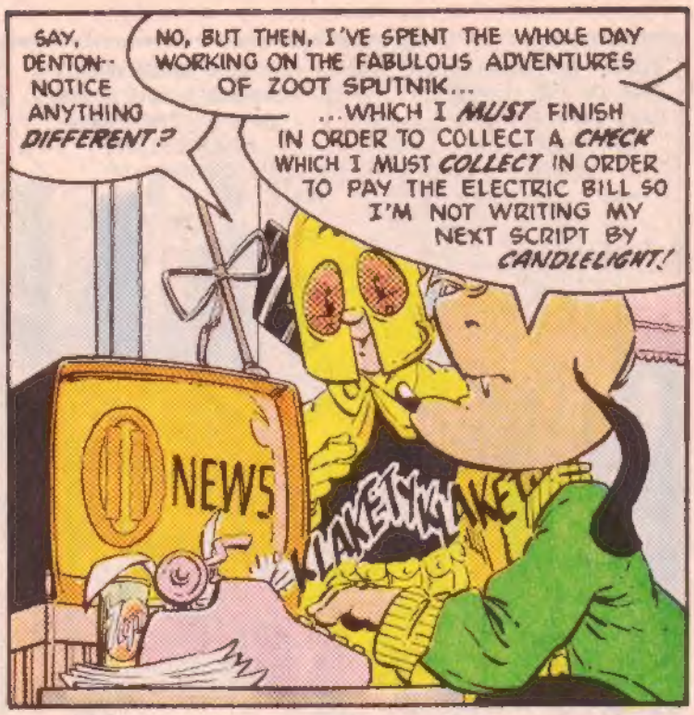
SEPT. 86
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
ACME SAFE CO.
HANDS UP!
TÊTES NOIRES
DARK KNIGHT
QUEENS
How will THE DARK KNIGHT end?

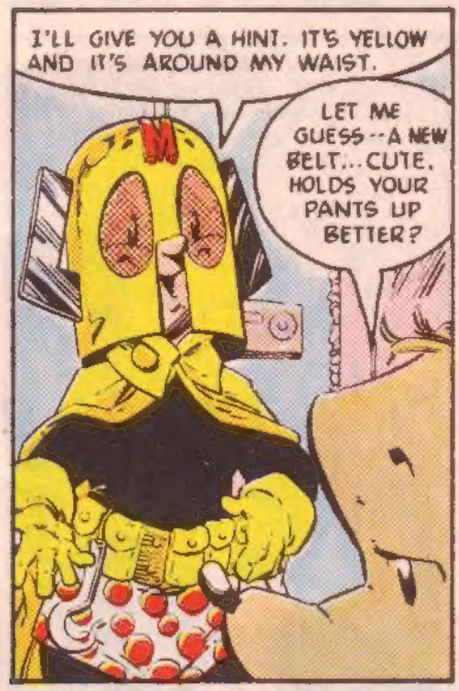
CREATED BY STEPHEN DE STEFANO & BOB ROZAKIS

'mazing man™

THE BANK JOB or "By Hook or By Crook"

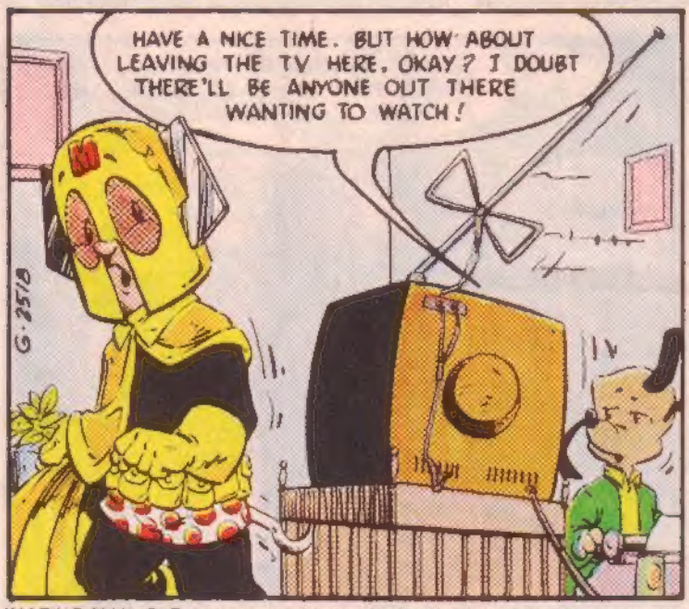
KARL KESEL — INKER
BOB LAPPAN — LETTERER
NANSI HOOLAHAN — COLORIST
ALAN GOLD & BARBARA RANDALL, EDITORS


SAY, DENTON-- NOTICE ANYTHING DIFFERENT?
NO, BUT THEN, I'VE SPENT THE WHOLE DAY WORKING ON THE FABULOUS ADVENTURES OF ZOOT SPUTNIK...
...WHICH I MUST FINISH IN ORDER TO COLLECT A CHECK WHICH I MUST COLLECT IN ORDER TO PAY THE ELECTRIC BILL SO I'M NOT WRITING MY NEXT SCRIPT BY CANDLELIGHT!
NEWS
KLAKETY KLAKETY



WELL, A LITTLE, BUT MORE THAN THAT! THE LITTLE POCKETS ARE FILLED WITH LOTS OF THINGS I NEED ON MY PATROL. SAFETY PINS, A BOTTLE OPENER...
...A ROLL OF ELECTRICAL TAPE, BAND-AIDS...
GREAT. NEXT TIME I SEE MONTY HALL, I'LL TELL HIM YOU'RE READY TO MAKE A DEAL.

TIME TO GO. GOTTA GET IN A QUICK PATROL BEFORE EDDIE'S PARTY. NEVER KNOW WHEN SOMEBODY'S SODA BOTTLE WILL HAVE A STUBBORN TWIST-OFF TOP.
Afternoon MOVIE



YOU'RE RIGHT. AND BESIDES, WE DON'T HAVE A LONG ENOUGH EXTENSION CORD!
DON'T FORGET THE PARTY'S AT THREE. I'M BRINGING THE CAKE!
KLACKETY KLACKETY
COMEDY CLASSICS
MAZE, I WILL BE AT THE BANK... WITH THE CHECK...FOR THE SCRIPT...FOR THE ELECTRIC BILL...FOR...FOR...FORGET IT!

'MAZING MAN 9 Published monthly by DC Comics Inc., 666 Fifth Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10103. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to 'MAZING MAN, DC Comics Inc., Subscription Dept., P.O. Box 1308-F, Fort Lee, NJ 07024. Annual subscription rate $9.00. Outside U.S.A. $11.00 in U.S. funds. Copyright 1986 DC Comics Inc. All Rights Reserved. The stories, characters and incidents mentioned in this magazine are entirely fictional. All characters featured in this issue and the distinctive likenesses thereof are trademarks of DC Comics Inc. Advertising Representative: Print Advertising Representatives Inc., 355 Lexington Avenue, New York, NY 10017. (212) 391-1400. Printed in U.S.A.
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EDDIE, THIS SHOULD BE ONE OF THE HAPPIEST DAYS OF YOUR LIFE! WHY SO GLUM, LOVER?
BECAUSE EVERYBODY'S MAKING SUCH A FUSS, ANY SECOND NOW, VANDERPLATZ IS GOING TO BLOW HIS TOP.
SOUTH RICHMOND PK
COME ON. HE REALIZES THAT IT ISN'T EVERY DAY SOMEONE GETS PROMOTED TO ASSISTANT MANAGER.
ESPECIALLY WHEN THAT SOMEBODY IS ME. I'M NOT EXACTLY WHAT YOU'D CALL HIS GOLDEN BOY.
A-HEM.'
WHAT'D I TELL YOU?
AM I THE ONLY ONE HERE WITH A FUNCTIONING WRISTWATCH? OR HAVE YOU ALL MERELY FORGOTTEN THAT THE BANK IS STILL OPEN?
OH, LIGHTEN UP, WALTER!
TWOOT
MISS HATHAWAY! JUST BECAUSE THIS IS YOUR LAST DAY DOES NOT MEAN YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO BREAK THE RULES OF ETIQUETTE BY WHICH WE CONDUCT OUR BUSINESS.
OH, POOH. YOU'RE JUST JEALOUS BECAUSE I LANDED THE JOB WITH CITIBANK!
DON'T LET HIM BOTHER YOU, EDWARD UNDER THAT GRUFF EXTERIOR, HE'S SOFT AS A MARSHMALLOW.
HARUMPH.
GIVE HIM A POKE NOW AND THEN.. FOR ME.

--SO BILL'S BEEN CHEATING ON LOUISE WITH JENNIFER WHILE RAYMOND'S INVOLVED WITH COCAINE SMUGGLERS AND BARRY'S BEEN INDICTED FOR KILLING OPHELIA!
WOW! "DAYS OF OUR LIVES"?
NO. IN MY BUILDING!
WHO CARES ABOUT THAT? DID YOU SEE "DYNASTY" LAST NIGHT?
AH RIGHT..BUDDY. I TOLD YA BEFORE-- NO LOITERIN' ON MY BEAT.
Poke
WAIT!
BUDDY HAS OBVIOUSLY HAD A TOUGH NIGHT, SGT. MULDAVEY. HE'S SO TIRED, HE CAN'T EVEN MAKE IT BACK HOME TO HIS REFRIGERATOR CRATE.
LISTEN, MISTUH AMAZIN'--NOBODY INVITED YOU TO PUT YOUR TWO CENTS IN. I DON'T WANT NO DRUNKEN BUM MAKING A MESS OUTTA THIS TRASH!
BUDDY? BUDDY-- YOU'VE GOT TO GET UP! THIS IS NO TIME TO...
...ROLL OVER? OOMPH!
WUT
HYAR HYAR HYAR
NOT IF I SEE YOU...
COME ON, BUDDY. SEE YOU LATER, SERGEANT.
...FIRRRRRRRST!
FWOOMP!

STAY RIGHT THERE, BUDDY. SOMEONE HAS THROWN AWAY A SODA CAN.
WHEN ARE PEOPLE GOING TO REALIZE THEY'RE THROWING AWAY THE EDUCATION OF AMERICA'S YOUTH?
MOVE IT, YOU GUYS, OR WE'RE GONNA BE LATE FOR THE GAME!
SHUT
A CAN RETURNED IS A NICKEL EARNED.
LINES
BUDDY?
WELL, BUDDY, WHEREVER YOU ARE, I SURE HOPE IT'S SOMEWHERE SGT. MULDAVEY ISN'T GOING TO TRIP OVER YOU.
SEÑOR 'MAZING YOU LOSING SOMETHING?
OF COURSE I CAN'T DO IT. LOOK AT THE SIZE OF THE DOOR AND LOOK AT THE SIZE OF ME.
Goodwill
SEÑORA TIRADO! HELENITA FINALLY HAS HAIR!
NO, IS NOT HAIR. CARLOS AND JUAN-- HER BIG BROTHERS-- THEY PLAY A TRICK!
THEY DRAW HAIR ON HELENITA!
tee-hee WELL, AT LEAST IT'S WASHABLE INK!
KLANG
¿QUE PASA?
OMIGOSH.

CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING

THAT POOR MAN. HE'S FALLEN INTO THE GOODWILL BOX.
FOOD
ANYTHING?
THERE CERTAINLY IS, ORVILLE.
I'LL SEE IF I CAN BE OF SOME ASSISTANCE.
EXCUSE ME, SEÑORA.
SEÑOR 'MAZING, IS NICE YOU TAKE MY GROCERY BASKET FOR ME, BUT I GO THE OTHER WAY!
OOOPS!
CERTAINLY LOOKS LIKE WE CAN USE THESE, ORVILLE.
EXCUSE ME, GENTLEMEN. DO YOU NEED ANY HELP?
Home of the Desert
WHAT?
I SEE YOU'RE TAKING CLOTHES OUT OF THE RECEPTACLE. IF YOU NEED THEM THAT BADLY, YOU SHOULD SPEAK TO MRS. BARNES AT THE GOODWILL OFFICE.
I CAN HELP YOU GET THERE IF YOU WANT.
HE WANTS TO HELP US, STANTON.
WE SHOULD HELP HIM GET OUT OF OUR WAY.
KLUNK
WOOF!
I WOULD HAVE JUST STEPPED ASIDE.
A MOST CHARMING LITTLE FELLOW.
HE CERTAINLY WAS, ORVILLE.
Goodwill
...LIKE A BRIDGE OVER TROUBLED WATER...

EDDIE, DON'T PLAY WITH THAT! WHAT IF YOU DROP IT?
SWEETHEART, I WASN'T A GOLD GLOVE WINNER AT JOHN QUINCY HIGH BECAUSE I DROPPED THE BALL.
BESIDES, THIS PAPERWEIGHT'S HARD AS A--
VALENTINE!
--ROCK!
COMING, MR. VANDERPLATZ.
THE TIME HAS COME
MISS HATHAWAY-- GIVE HIM THE KEYS.
EDWARD-- THESE ARE THE KEYS!
SAFE DEPOSIT BOX KEY... CASH DRAWER KEY... FILE KEY... ALARM SYSTEM KEY. THEY'RE ALL YOURS NOW.
GUARD THEM WITH YOUR LIFE.
MISS HATHAWAY-- YOU'RE HOLDING OUT.
OH. YES. THE LAST KEY.
THE KEY TO THE EXECUTIVE WASHROOM.
THE EXECUTIVE MEN'S ROOM, MISS HATHAWAY-- FINALLY!
BOO HOO HOO.

I AM A ROCK...
Goodwill
IN A CLEARING STANDS A BOXER...
oodw
HUNH? AM I CRAZY, OR IS THAT GOODWILL BOX SINGING?
PARSLEY, SAGE, ROSEMARY AND THYME...
Go dwill
I SHOULDA KNOWN. I AIN'T THE ONE WHO'S CRAZY!
WHAT'RE YOU DOING IN THERE?
SERGEANT! HI!
Goodwill
555-1321
THERE WERE THESE TWO MEN AND THEY WERE TAKING CLOTHES OUT OF HERE, SO I CAME OVER TO TELL THEM THEY SHOULD GO TO THE GOODWILL OFFICE AND THEN THEY--
GET OUT OF THERE!
OH, LORDY. I'M STUCK!
UH-OH, LOOK AT THE TIME--
IT'S ALMOST THREE O'CLOCK! I'M GOING TO BE LATE FOR EDDIE'S PARTY!

SERGEANT, I'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE!
YOU AIN'T THE ONLY ONE!
Goodwill
555-1321
SWIP
TRY WIGGLING YOUR STOMACH A LITTLE MORE, SERGEANT.
ANDY, LET ME GIVE YOU A WORD OF ADVICE. DON'T MAKE ANY WISECRACKS IF YOU KNOW WHAT'S GOOD FOR YOU.
OKAY, FOLKS, BACK OFF. GIVE US SOME ROOM.
HANG ON, SARGE. WE'LL GET YOU OUTTA THERE.
Goodwill
555-1321
WHAT THE--?
WE'RE BEING RESCUED! PULL, MEN-- I'LL PUSH.
GEEZ, WHEN'S THE DEPARTMENT GOING TO START ENFORCING WEIGHT LIMITATIONS?
I HEARD THAT!
ONE...TWO...THREEEEEE
SSS
POK
HAHAHAHA OUR POLICE DEPARTMENT IN ACTION!
OOOOH. GET OFF MY LEGS!
WE DID IT.

CONTINUED ON 320 PAGE FOLLOWING

THANKS, OFFICERS. I'VE GOT TO RUN!

HEY!

I SAID *HEY!!*

UH, SARGE. YOU GOT A... UM... BRA-ZI-EER. ON YOUR HEAD.

AND YOU'VE GOT SPIT FOR BRAINS, CHERKO. GO GET THAT LITTLE TWERP!

LAST CUSTOMERS OF THE DAY, GENTS. I'M CLOSING THE DOORS.

YOU'RE STARING AT THAT KEY LIKE IT OPENS FORT KNOX.

BRENDA, YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND. THE *EXECUTIVE* WASHROOM.

MY GOOD MAN, PERHAPS YOU SHOULDN'T *LOCK* THOSE DOORS JUST YET.

SORRY. MR. VANDERPLATZ SAYS, "CLOSE THE DOORS AT 3:00," I CLOSE THE DOORS AT 3:00!

I SEE WE'LL JUST HAVE TO BE A LITTLE MORE PERSUASIVE.

THIS IS IT. EDDIE VALENTINE ENTERS THE EXECUTIVE WASHROOM.

ATTENTION, EVERYBODY. THIS IS A HOLD-UP. STAY WHERE YOU ARE AND NOBODY WILL GET HURT!

BESIDES THE GUARD, ORVILLE.

WHAT--?!

GOOD GRACIOUS!

crush

VRRRRRRM
MMMMMMMMMM
SHRRSH
351
FWUMF
BUS STOP
VRRRRRRRRRRRRRR
HEY, WHO'S SHAKIN' THE SIGN?
BUDDY--THERE YOU ARE!
UH, HI, LITTLE BOY.
snatch
TALK TO YOU LATER. I'M IN A BIG HURRY.
PUFF PANT
WEEOOW
MUS' BE A BIG 'MERGENCY. MAYBE 'T'S AN EARTHQUAKE.
WOOO

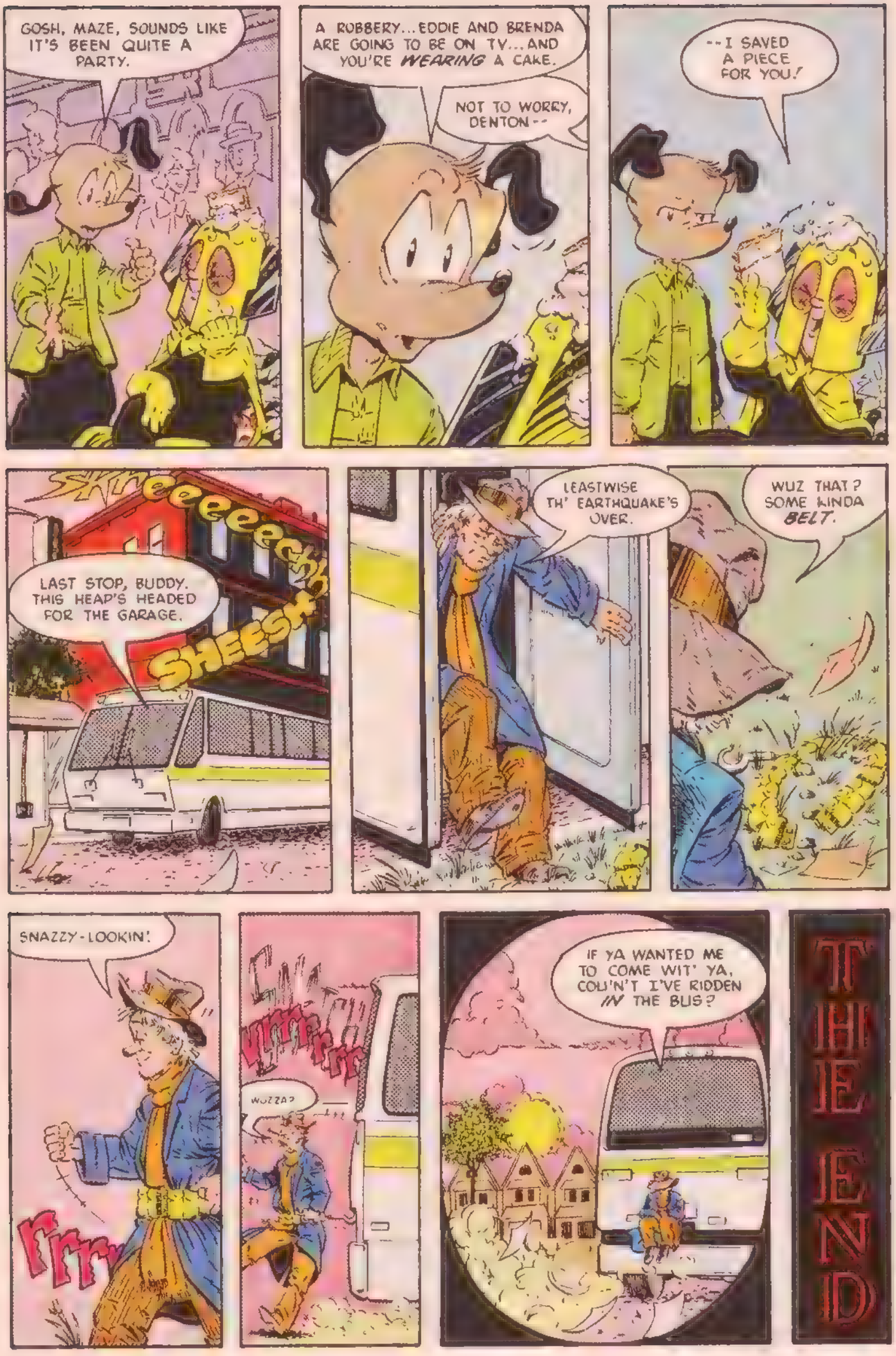
KEEP THEM COVERED, STANTON.
I CERTAINLY WILL, ORVILLE
NOW, DEAR LADY, PLEASE BE KIND ENOUGH TO FILL UP THIS SACK. LARGE BILLS ONLY, PLEASE.
OOPS
OKAY, VALENTINE, WHAT DO YOU DO? NO WAY TO GET TO THE ALARM. IF YOU BURST OUT OF HERE, ODDS ARE YOU'LL GET BLOWN AWAY. STAY COOL PLAY IT BY EAR
WHAT A CUTE OLD LADY.. YOU REMIND ME OF MY KINDLY OLD GRANDMA. DO YOU BAKE CHOCOLATE CHIP COOKIES?
OOOUGH
UNHAND HER, YOU VILLAIN! SHE'S STILL AN OFFICER OF THIS ESTABLISHMENT!
STANTON, YOU'RE NOT DOING YOUR JOB. SHUT HIM UP.
OOOOH, I HATE DOING THIS!
WHAM!
UNGH!
NOW, NOBODY ELSE TALKS...OR MOVES... UNLESS I SAY SO, OR THIS SWEET YOUNG THING WILL GET HER BRAINS SPLATTERED ALL OVER YOUR NICE, SHINY FLOOR.
OOOF
BRENDA!

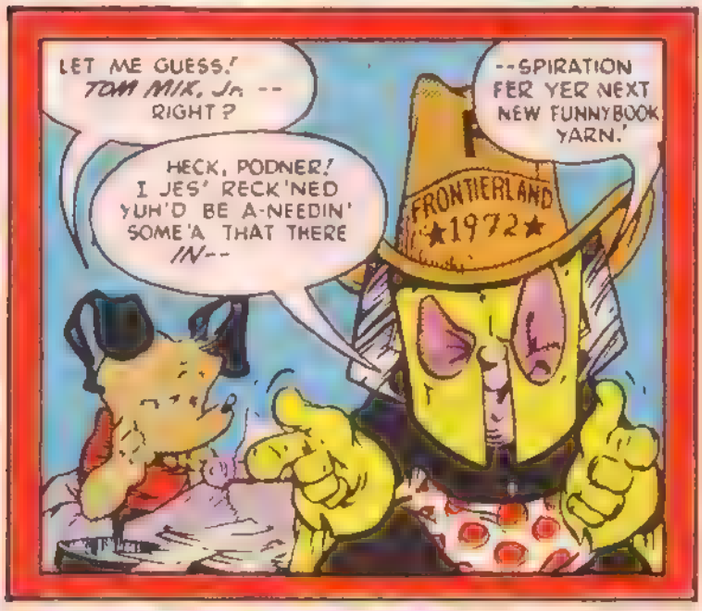
:PUFF-PUFF PUFF: GOT TO GET THAT CAKE. THEY'LL ALL BE SO ANGRY AT ME FOR BEING LATE.
BAKERY
SNATCH!
SWATCH!
SWATCH!
WHAT'RE YOU :PANT: ALL STANDIN' AROUND FOR? :PANT: HE'S GOTTA BE SOMEPLACE. :PANT:
GEE, SARGE, WE DON'T SEE HIM. MAYBE HE DUCKED INTO ONE O' THE STORES!
THEN MAYBE YOU OUGHT TO START LOOKING IN THE STORES, CALLAHAN -- NOW!
WAIT! CALL OFF THE SEARCH! THERE HE GOES!
PIES $10
:PUFF-PUFF: TIME TO REALLY TURN ON THE SPEED.
LET AN OLD PRO SHOW YOU HOW IT'S DONE, MEN! FOLLOW ME!

I DON'T REMEMBER THIS HILL BEING SO STEEP! -PUFF!-
UH-OH.
PIES $1.00
CLICK
PIES $1.00
WHAT THE HECK--?
NOOOO! IT'S AN AMBUSH!
SPLAK

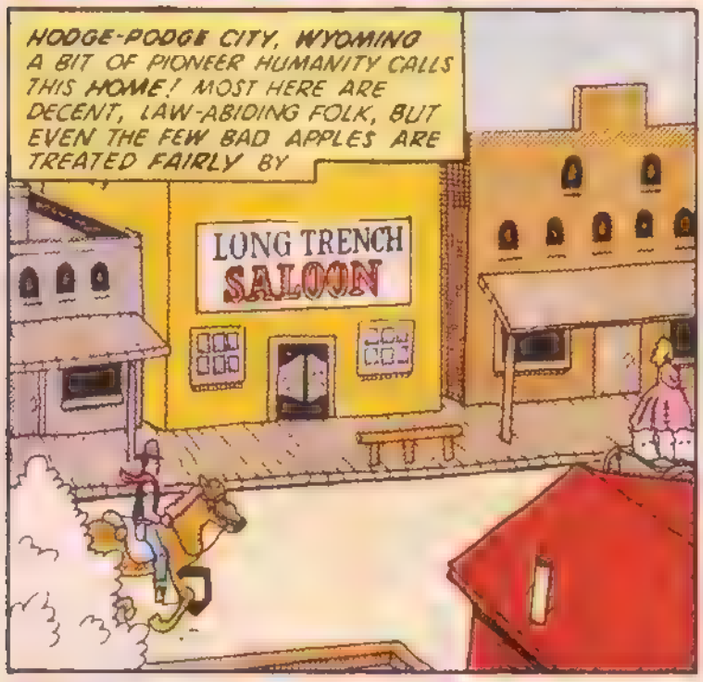
-PUFF-PUFF- HOPE I'M NOT TOO LATE TO SURPRISE THEM
KLIP-K
KLOPKLIPKLOPK
SOUTH RI...OND PA...
SCHK!
JUST STAY COOL, MISTER. THAT'S MY WIFE I'LL GET YOU ANYTHING YOU WANT. JUST DON'T HURT HER...PLEASE
YOU WANT MORE MONEY? GOT ANOTHER SACK YOU WANT FILLED UP? FINE. JUST--
I'M HERE!
LET'S PARTY!
WOK!
ORVILLE. HE'S KNOCKED OUT ORVILLE! WHAT DO I DO NOW?
AH-HAH. THOUGHT YOU COULD GET AWAY, HUNH. YOU LITTLE PEST?!
OOOOF

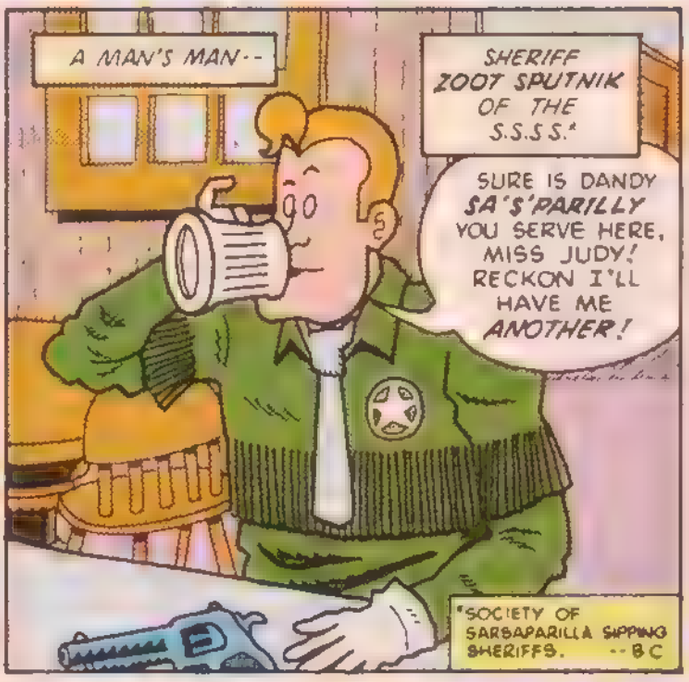
YOU'RE IN BIG TROUBLE, LITTLE MAN LEAVING THE SCENE OF A CRIME, CREATING A PUBLIC NUISANCE, JAY-WALKING...
SPLAT!
T! T! T! T!
NORMA BARTON AT THE SOUTH RICHMOND SAVINGS BANK, WHERE AN ATTEMPTED ROBBERY HAS BEEN FOILED BY THE HEROIC EFFORTS OF TWO MEN.
ONE OF THEM, EDWARD VALENTINE, WAS JUST TODAY PROMOTED TO ASSISTANT MANAGER.
QUITE AN AUSPICIOUS BEGINNING, EH, EDWARD?
SURE WAS, NORMA
WHAT'S GOING ON?
I'M JUST HAPPY THAT MY WIFE IS SAFE AND THAT NO ONE WAS SERIOUSLY HURT.
BANK MANAGER WALTER VANDERPLATZ -- I UNDERSTAND YOU WERE HIT ON THE HEAD BY ONE OF THE ROBBERS. HOW DO YOU FEEL?
OH, DON'T WORRY ABOUT WALTER. HE'S THE MOST THICK-HEADED MAN I KNOW!
MISS HATHAWAY--!
SGT. MULDAVEY, IT WAS YOUR TIMELY ARRIVAL THAT BROKE UP THE ROBBERY ATTEMPT. WHAT BROUGHT YOU INTO THE BANK?
UM...
UH... CALL IT A STREET COP'S INSTINCTS. YEAH, THAT'S IT -- INSTINCTS

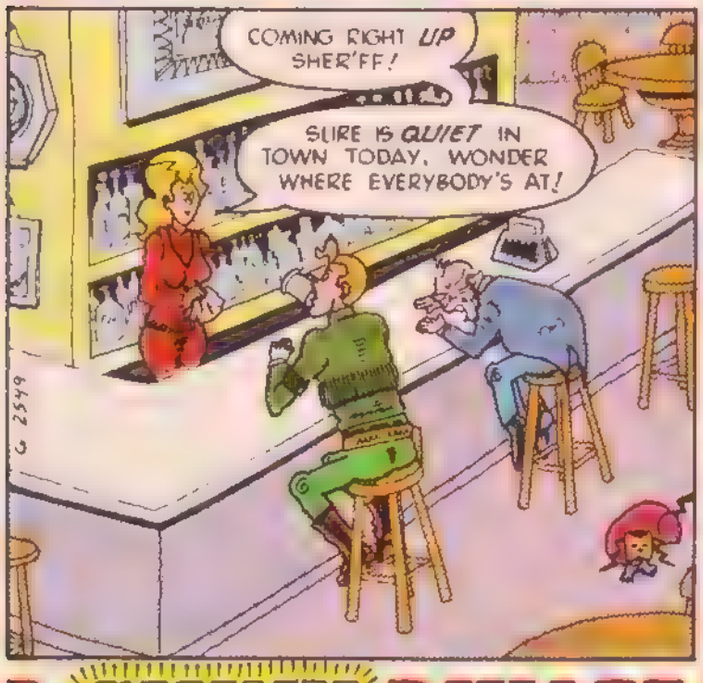

GOSH, MAZE, SOUNDS LIKE IT'S BEEN QUITE A PARTY.
A ROBBERY... EDDIE AND BRENDA ARE GOING TO BE ON TV... AND YOU'RE WEARING A CAKE.
NOT TO WORRY, DENTON--
--I SAVED A PIECE FOR YOU!
Skreeeeech
SHEEST
LAST STOP, BUDDY. THIS HEAP'S HEADED FOR THE GARAGE.
LEASTWISE TH' EARTHQUAKE'S OVER.
WUZ THAT? SOME KINDA BELT.
SNAZZY-LOOKIN'
rrrr
Yrrrrrrr
WUZZA?
IF YA WANTED ME TO COME WIT' YA, COULN'T I'VE RIDDEN IN THE BUS?
THE END


LET ME GUESS! TOM MIX, Jr. -- RIGHT?
HECK, PODNER! I JES' RECK'NED YUH'D BE A-NEEDIN' SOME'A THAT THERE IN--
--SPIRATION FER YER NEXT NEW FUNNYBOOK YARN.'
FRONTIERLAND ★1972★

THE VERY FUN ADVENTURES of ZOOT SPUTNIK and his FRIENDS!!!
DENTON FIXX writer
BOB LAPPAN letterer
FRED HEMBECK art by
TOM ZIUKO colorist
BERNARD I CORNFELDT editor in chief


HODGE-PODGE CITY, WYOMING A BIT OF PIONEER HUMANITY CALLS THIS HOME! MOST HERE ARE DECENT, LAW-ABIDING FOLK, BUT EVEN THE FEW BAD APPLES ARE TREATED FAIRLY BY
LONG TRENCH SALOON

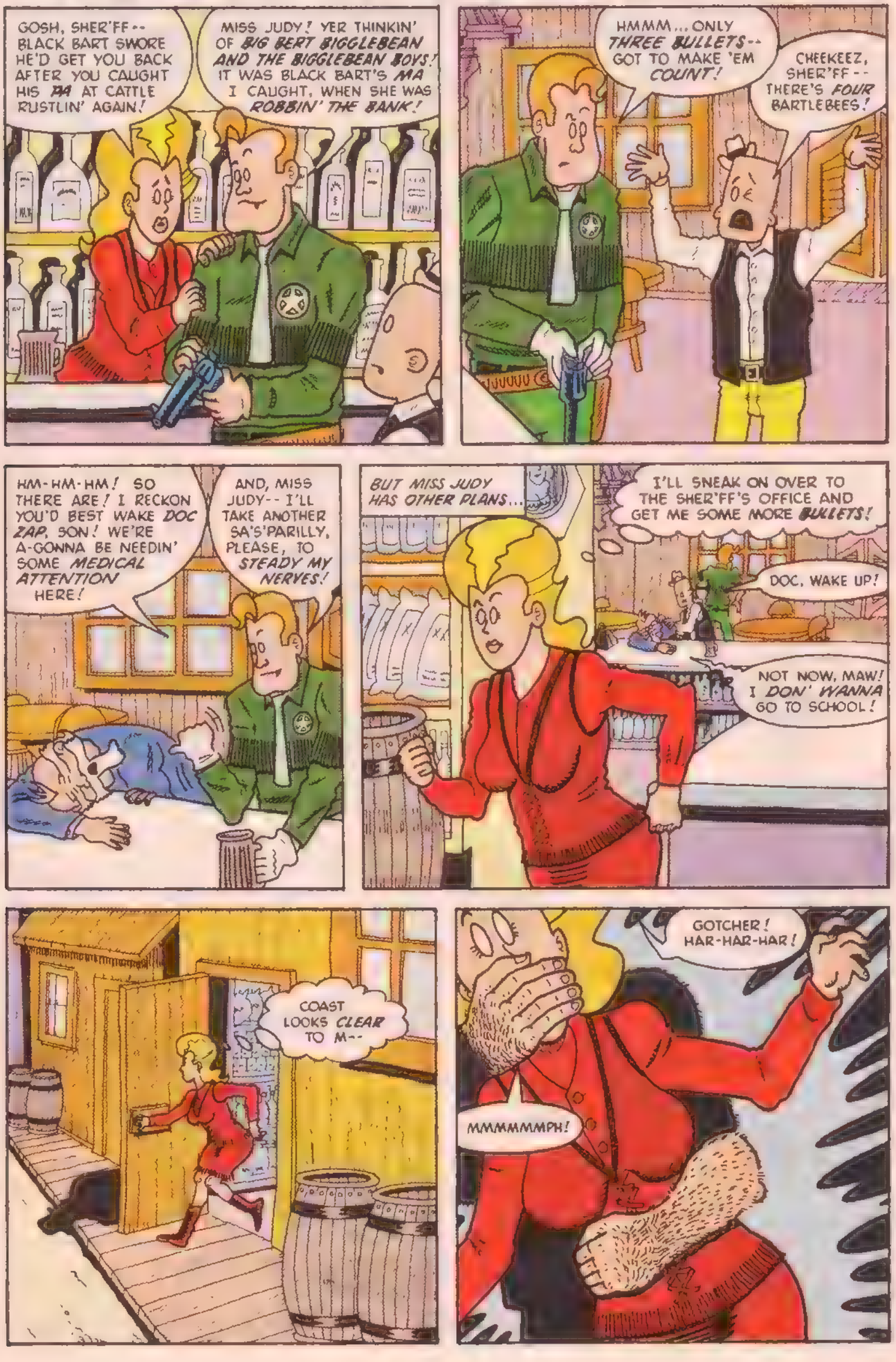

A MAN'S MAN--
SHERIFF ZOOT SPUTNIK OF THE S.S.S.S.*
SURE IS DANDY SA'S'PARILLY YOU SERVE HERE, MISS JUDY! RECKON I'LL HAVE ME ANOTHER!
*SOCIETY OF SARSAPARILLA SIPPING SHERIFFS. --BC



DEPPITY WINKY! WHERE'S THE FIRE, SON?
CHEEKEEZ, SHER'FF! BLACK BART BARTLEBEE'S RIDIN' INTO TOWN -- WITH A WHOLE MESS'A HIS MEAN AN' UGLY BROTHERS!

A SHINY BULLET FOR A BLACK BART!

READ BC COMICS—YOUR MOM WON'T MIND!


GOSH, SHER'FF -- BLACK BART SWORE HE'D GET YOU BACK AFTER YOU CAUGHT HIS PA AT CATTLE RUSTLIN' AGAIN!
MISS JUDY! YER THINKIN' OF BIG BERT BIGGLEBEAN AND THE BIGGLEBEAN BOYS! IT WAS BLACK BART'S MA I CAUGHT, WHEN SHE WAS ROBBIN' THE BANK!
HMMM... ONLY THREE BULLETS -- GOT TO MAKE 'EM COUNT!
CHEEKEEZ, SHER'FF -- THERE'S FOUR BARTLEBEES!
HM-HM-HM! SO THERE ARE! I RECKON YOU'D BEST WAKE DOC ZAP, SON! WE'RE A-GONNA BE NEEDIN' SOME MEDICAL ATTENTION HERE!
AND, MISS JUDY -- I'LL TAKE ANOTHER SA'S'PARILLY, PLEASE, TO STEADY MY NERVES!
BUT MISS JUDY HAS OTHER PLANS...
I'LL SNEAK ON OVER TO THE SHER'FF'S OFFICE AND GET ME SOME MORE BULLETS!
DOC, WAKE UP!
NOT NOW, MAW! I DON' WANNA GO TO SCHOOL!
COAST LOOKS CLEAR TO M--
GOTCHER! HAR-HAR-HAR!
MMMMMMPH!

✸ ✸ ALL THE KIDS SAY, "BC COMICS ARE NEAT!" ✸ ✸

WE'RE A-CALLIN' YOU OUT, SHER'FF! WE GOTCHER OUTNUMBERED, FOUR T' ONE!
MEBBE SO, GREEN GUS-- BUT MEBBE--
--NOT!
TRENCH
LOON
BLAM
THAT'S ONE!
WONDER WHERE MISS JUDY'S AT...?
A SHOT'A RED-EYE, WINKY-- QUICK!-- FOR MEDISHINAL -HIC- PURPOSHES!
MISS JUDY? YOU OUT HERE?
CHEEKEE--WRRFF!
WELL, WELL, NOW! HERE'S A LI'L OL' DEPPITY TO JOIN OUR PARTY! HAR-HAR!

TAKE THAT, *RED RICK!*

GENERAL STOR

BLAM

THAT'S *TWO!*

THWUMMP

SURE COULD USE THAT SA'S'PARILLY, MISS JUDY.

MISS JUDY?

DEPPITY WINKY?

WHERE *ARE* THOSE YOUNG'UNS?

PROB'LY OFF *SPARKIN'* IN THE BARN! -*HIC*-

I'LL JUST MOSEY ON OVER AND BREAK THINGS UP. WINKY'S *TOO YOUNG* FER A FULL-GROWN WOMAN LIKE MAH DAUGHTER!

TIME FER A *HOUSE CALL*, DOC! HAR-HAR-DE-HAR!

MMPPFF!

YER ALL *ALONE* NOW, SHER'FF! MY BROTHER'S GOT YER FRIENDS!

C'MON OUT-- OR WE'RE A-GONNA START WHITTLIN' AWAY ATCHER *CHRISTMAS MAILIN' LIST!*

NOT ON YOUR LIFE, *LAVENDER LOU!*

UUUUU!

CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING

BLAM
YA GOT ME, SHER'FF! YOW YOW YOW!
THAT DOES IT, SHER'FF! NOW I'M A-GONNA COUNT T' TEN AND THEN I'M A-GONNA PLUG YER SIDEKICKS ONE BY ONE...
...THOUGH I MIGHT JES' SPARE THE WOMAN SO'S SHE CAN KEEP ME WARM OUT ON THE PRAIRIE! HAR-HAR!
EEEK! NOT THAT!
EEEK! HELP US, SHER'FF!
ONE!...
BARKER! HERE, BOY!
...TWO!...
GOOD DOG! LISTEN, BARKER--YOU'VE GOT TO SNEAK OVER TO THE SHER'FF'S OFFICE AND BRING ME BACK A BULLET!
I KNOW YOU CAN DO IT, BOY! FETCH THE BULLET-- JUST LIKE DEPPITY WINKY TAUGHT YOU TO!
WHAT'S GOING ON? I COULD'VE SWORN I WENT TO SLEEP IN AN AIRPORT HANGAR!
...THREE!...
...FOUR!..
IF ONLY I COULD TALK! I'D TELL HIM HOW MUCH I HATE HIS STUPID PLANS!
GO, BOY! GO!
SHERIFF
WHOEVER HEARD OF A SHERIFF CARRYING ONLY THREE BULLETS?!
...FIVE!...

GIMME A "B"! GIMME A "C"! BC COMICS—HOORAY!

...EIGHT!...

WHAT HAPPENED TO *SIX* AND *SEVEN*?

AARRGH-- I'M GETTIN' *TIRED'A* COUNTIN'!

GOTTA GET THIS BULLET TO ZOOT... BULLET TO ZOO--

--WAITAMINUTE! WHY SHOULD *HE* BE THE HERO WHEN *I'M* DOING ALL THE WORK?

I CAN TAKE CARE OF BLACK BART...

...LIKE *THIS!*

ZOOT SPORTS

YOUCH! YA *GOT* ME!

GOOD BOY, BARKER!

SURE GLAD I LEARNED YA TO SPIT BULLETS, BOY!

WHAT A DOG!

AL STORE

WHISKEY FOR EVER'BODY! YEE-*HAW!*

FIXX?! CORNFELDT! YOU CALL THIS AN *ENDING?!*

I'M NOT ASKING FOR *SLICE-OF-LIFE REALISM*, BUT-- SAY! *IS* THIS A *GAG*, OR WHAT?

AND FURTHERMORE, THE NAME'A THIS STRIP IS *ZOOT SPUTNIK--! NOT SPITTO THE DOG!*

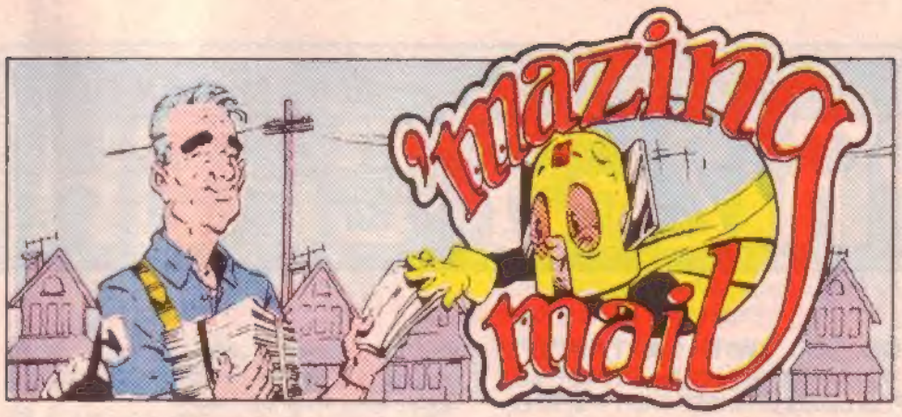
WHAT IS IT? YOU *IDENTIFY* WITH THIS MUTT? CAN'T YOU SAVE THE PERSONAL FEELINGS FOR YOUR FIRST *NOVEL?!*

NAW-- DON'T COME IN AND FIX IT! *I'LL* DO IT FOR YA...

...AND DEDUCT A PAGE FROM YOUR CHECK!

YEAH, YEAH, I KNOW. G'BYE TO YOU, TOO!

"LET'S SEE... I'LL JUST THROW OUT HIS LAST PAGE... AND THEN..."
GOOD DOG, BARKER!
RUMF
...SIX!...
...SEVEN-EIGHT-NINE-TEN! TIMES UP, SHER'FF!
OKAY, BLACK BART! YOU WIN! I'M A-COMIN' OUT!
CHEEKEEZ, ZOOT! DON'T DO IT!
THROW DOWN YORE SHOOTIN' IRON, SHER'FF! HAR-DE-HAR-HAR!
OH, ZOOT!
HEY, YA DANG FOOL! EASY HOW YA THROW THAT--
BLAM
HA! ONCE AGAIN, YOU FELL FOR THE BOUNCING-GUN BACKWARDS SHOULDER-SHOT!
YOUCH! I'M SHOT!
WHAT A MAN!
CHEEKEEZ, SHER'FF! WILL YOU LEARN ME THAT TRICK?
WHISKEY FOR EVER'BODY! YEE-HAW!
RUMF
CORNFELDT, OLD BOY, YOU STILL GOT IT!
RANDALL-- TELL THAT HUMBUG CHARACTER TO SHARPEN HIS PENCILS!
WE GOT A CLASSIC SO GOOD, EVEN HIS DRAWINGS COULDN'T RUIN IT!
THAT'S ALL, FOLKS!



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L-2399

'Mazing Manufacturers:

'MAZING MAN feels good. Makes me feel good. 'm glad it's here, and I like it. It's fer sher fer "Love & Rocketeers," "Journeyeers," and celebrants of d'Aardvark.

Would like to see Denton suddenly click into being a successful writer. It happens that way sometimes; you suddenly realize you are and can keep bein'—a comic book writer. I'd like to see'm become popular (eventually) (even a regular back-up in 'MAZING MAN: "Splendid Pup"), risk the exposure of his features, and adulation; would like to see'm lose his popularity. What happens to a writer who's suddenly out of fashion? Happens, y'know, just like that. He'll really be glad he too has a friend like ... 'Mazing Man.

Words and pictures in easy harmony, so easy a harmony that issue five's multiple-hand talent makes it practically a primer in artistic styles.

Would like to see stories like the first, where the greatest emphasis is on Maze's deeds and derring-do. And yet, no issue's disappointed my hopes, even with Maze as much in the background of things as a cover star can be.

Yup. Good feelin' stuff. 'Cause it's easy fer me t'do so, I'm pickin' up five of each new 'MAZING MAN t' keep it comin': sure'd be happy if ever'bodyelse just picked up two of the next issue—grab a second copy'n support it.

Request no more than nine panels per page, though; and no redslashes for lipstick, changing K.P.'s smile quite a bit; and "'Mazing Mail."

Hope my first two letters reached you; this's #3 in what I'm hopin's a long series...!

Matthew Louis M. Levin
44 Lincoln Avenue
Northampton, MA 01060

*****

Dear 'tephen & 'ob,

I have just finished 'MAZING MAN #5 and once more Maze has managed to show up just long enough to still call this gem of a book, 'MAZING MAN. This, by the way, leads me into my only criticism (hopefully, a constructive one). When Maze goes out on patrol, I want to see it. When he does whatever it is that he does, I want to see it. I want to see more of Maze and his double dose of optimism. The guy makes me feel good and I want to see a lot more of him.

This is not to say that I don't care for the rest of the supporting cast. Actually, I think Maze supports *them* most of the time. You've developed everyone very well except for your title character. My favorite two characters besides Maze are Brenda and Eddie. I thank you for turning them into old friends with whom I can always feel comfortable. The same goes for K.P. and Denton, too. I wish I could say the same for Guido, but it is all because of your terrific characterization that makes me feel uneasy when he's around. When he shows up on a page, I get the same feeling I get when unwanted company shows up on my doorstep.

In conclusion I want you all to know that I have long since figured out that Maze is, for the most part, a frame for these other characters, a catalyst, if you will. This has worked well so far. You have by no means been putting out a bad comic. I just wish that 'Mazing Man could be the center of the picture a little more often. Gee, I hope I'm not being too optimistic.

Adam Burchess
1004A Westover Drive
Greenville, NC 27834

*****

Dear Alan:

'MAZING MAN #5 was so good, I bought another issue to put in my showcase, because:

1. I'm going to be a writer.
2. It was excellent.
3. The cover *belongs* in a showcase.

Thanks for yet another great issue, though I still wish you could've squeezed another story in there. (I'm sorry, it's me. I just can't get enough of MM.)

S'long,

Andy Sved
455 N. Kilkea Drive
Los Angeles, CA 90048

*****

Dear all:

Hmmm. 'MAZING MAN has had five issues and I've already written six letters. I can think of no better compliment.

I do have a worry; perhaps you can put my mind at ease. How long can a comic such as the one you produce continue to be creative and original? I already see deterioration in issue five, which wasn't as good as its four antecedents. I really hope this was only a fluke and Maze shall remain the best in comics. (His is the only comic that I have reread at least three times per issue. It's in my hands more often than in the Mylar!!)

Welp, I guess I'll be signing off again...

You may not know me, but this time I'm...

Floyd Deon
Car #4, the "A" train

Sorry if we let you down, Floyd. It's inevitable, you know, when you face a deadline every thirty days, that some months you have to settle on something less than a funnybook classic. In the case of "Writer's Block" we attempted something complicated and tricky, so the opportunities for failure were many. Even so, most respondents found the issue no less than entertaining, and many thought it our best effort so far. Go figure.

Anyway, although we love blushing at our readers' praises, we're even more grateful for a bunch of pointed comments that help us improve our comic. So keep those raspberries coming!

*****

Dear Alan,

I've just finished reading MM #5 and I must say, this has been the best 'Mazing Man story yet! "Writer's Block" was certainly a prime example of how some things can get out of hand sometimes. The various stories told by Denton's friends were simply hilarious. If I were to pick which story was the best, however, this would certainly be Guido's story. The return of Agent James Garibondi is apparent and you've got my vote on that one.

On another matter, I would also like to say that never, never, *ever* replace Mr. DeStefano and Mr. Kesel as artist and inker of this magazine. They are certainly the best for this series. Don't make the mistake of replacing them like you did with Paris Cullins in BLUE DEVIL.

Again, thank you for another great story and I'm expecting an even better one next issue. And until then ... make mine 'MAZING.

Rhoderick M. Santos
Chairman
The GUIDO GARIBALDI
Fan Club
Somewhere in the world

Just a brief comment in defense of artists and editors, Rhoderick. It's in everybody's interest to keep a creative team intact; the penciller and inker become increasingly comfortable for each other's styles, and the writer is able to construct stories that emphasize the art team's strengths. Eventually, though, even in the best of teams exhaustion sets in, and a break-up occurs. This isn't always for the worst, since the new team could actually be even better than the original team.

Sometimes, a team breaks up after a relatively brief stint because one or more of the members just can't keep up with the unforgiving pace of a monthly magazine. In the case of BLUE DEVIL, for example, Paris asked to be taken off the assignment because he just couldn't produce a full-length comic month after month without wrecking his health. Recently, he got onto BLUE BEETLE, where he's doing very well; it has taken him a couple of years to develop the stamina and discipline to pencil a monthly comic. If Stephen or Karl were to ask to be relieved of 'MAZING MAN, their editor would have no choice, really, but reluctantly to comply. Many readers would protest and clamor for that editor's dis-

(CONTINUED ON INSIDE BACK COVER)

missal, if not drowning in Central Park Lake—but they'd be missing the human element of this business. Comic book making can be very grueling, and to nobody's satisfaction it can even take its untimely toll.

*****

Dear Mazing Ones,

I had a sinking feeling as I read the credits to #5. Guest artists? Already? And so many of them! Garcia-Lopez, Marcos, Cowan, Giordano, Orlando, and Schaffenberger: that's quite a crew! Now, they are fine artists all, bu I was disturbed at the fact that we were get ting a fill-in in only the fifth issue. Was the regular art team running out of time/steam/enthusiasm/pencils already? So, imagine my relief when it became clear that this was not a case of rushed fill-ins, but rather a nicely planned artistic merry-go round. A nice concept, guys, but shame on you for putting me through such mental torture!

Even being a lowly letterhack, I have certainly experienced writer's block on more than one occasion, so I could definitely sympathize with Denton this issue. Of course, judging from the quality of the "help" he got, he's pretty much on his own in his struggle to defeat the dreaded block, so I feel even sorrier for him, since I can always get help. (Some say I need *lots* of help, though they aren't always speaking about my writing!) I can always call on Bizarro Maple, L'il Buddy Maple (age 3½), Fogleg Maple, or any one of the numerous characters who reside here in my fabulous Fortress of Mapletude. And, of course, if I'm really stuck I can always turn the job over to someone from the Legion of Substitute Maples... (Who *says* it doesn't pay to be crazy?)

In any event, the story showed that you continue to be able to mix humor with sentiment without getting maudlin about it. That Maze wanted so badly to help Denton and that his friends tried to pitch in with their own ideas was all very endearing, while the stories themselves were pretty funny.

Maze's own story was particularly inter esting. At first, the big, strong hero was assumed by me to be Maze's own image of himself (or, at least, perhaps what he *wished* he could be). But in the end, the hero turned out to be Denton. Presumably, this shows the high esteem in which Maze holds Denton But does it also mean that Maze truly realizes his own basically ineffectual nature—or perhaps I should say his "unimposing nature" (since Maze *does* have an effect on people)? Or maybe it's just that Maze is too modest to cast himself as the star of his own story?

"T.M. Maple"
Box 1272, Station B
Weston, Ontario
M9L 2R9 Canada

This being your two-thousand-three-hundred-forty-ninth letter, T.M., I wonder when you find the time to suffer from writer's block! Seriously, though ... all your interpretations of Maze's story are "correct."

*****

Thanks, too, to everyone else who wrote:

Grey Hautaluoma
Glen O'Brien
George A. Williams
Charles D. Brown
Todd Serenbetz
Frederick Beondo
Willis Couvillier
Denny Dukes **(Denton is indeed 29 years old; I stand corrected)**
Gina Meskil
Wally Stoelting
Gerard Cruz
David E. Romm **(I have no record of receiving a letter from you on MM #1, David. Mail does sometimes get misrouted—even lost. At DC, we have no desire or intention to suppress constructive, well-meant criticism; negative reviews appear regularly in our letter columns. Just for the record, 'MAZING MAN is a thoroughly original—although parodic, and therefore allusive—series that boiled over out of the head of Stephen DeStefano; Bob Rozakis got down on his hands and knees and cleaned up the mess. It was by no means a ripoff of any other series. In fact, forgive us, but Stephen, Bob, and I laughed incredulously at your accusation.)**
Charles David Haskell
Robert Keefer
Matt Levin **(thanks for the mini-comics, Matt; they're really charming)**
Scott Carola
Greg Partridge
John Q. Adams III **(I'm out of dollars to bribe you with, John Q. How about a couple of skunks?)**
Jonathan Conrad

If I've omitted anyone, it was an oversight I regret.

Now, then...

What comes next is not easy to write. This will be my last issue as editor of 'MAZING MAN, and starting next issue, Bob Rozakis will preside over this letter column. I don't know who will edit the comic, but I'm sure it will quickly become a labor of love for my successor, as it was for me. I'm proud to say I was there pretty much at the beginning of 'MAZING MAN. Bob and Stephen had been kicking ideas around for over a year before they met me, but I got to them just as they were about to make a real breakthrough. As an artist, Stephen is improving so rapidly, issue after issue, it's almost ... well, inspiring. And Bob becomes more confident every issue, too; this is without a doubt the comic he has been waiting to write. I can't say enough about the rest of our crew, either. Karl's inking has gotten so crisp and authoritative, it goes beyond mere interpretation: it's an extension of Stephen's imagination. And I think at least part of Stephen's growth is attributable to the impact of Karl's finished art. As I've said before, Bob Lappan and Tom Ziuko are terrific craftsmen, and neither has ever delivered anything short of surprising. With this team, and with the knowledge that you're working on a comic that's really, really special, you can't help but get involved up to the elbows—and I wish my successor the best of luck!

A last appeal. Sales have shown improvement, but they're not nearly as good as they deserve to be. Spread the word. Convince those doubting Thomases that they're missing out on something special, if they snub 'MAZING MAN on the grounds that it's just a kiddie book or a collection of dumb gags. I'm not saying that people can't hate 'MAZING MAN. It's not for everyone. But it deserves a chance.

So much for the sermon. Sit still a minute longer, for the NEXT-ISSUE blurb. To wit:

NEXT ISSUE: Maze does his bit in fighting a fire. Guido goes jogging. And Zoot Sputnik meets Al Capone! (Now, then. That wasn't so bad, was it? Dismissed!)

—Alan